



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

For Immediate Release:
Feb. 4, 2011

Contact:
Monique Farmer 402-995-2416
monique.l.farmer@usace.army.mil

Robert Matya 402-995-2718
robert.a.matya@usace.army.mil

Corps continues work on intake diversion dam project

Glendive, Mont. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that despite an adjusted construction schedule for the Lower Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam Modification Project, work on the project will continue.

The first phase of the project is to provide new irrigation canal headworks and fish screens to prevent native fish from entering and becoming trapped in the main irrigation canal. The headworks facilities are where the water from the Yellowstone River enters the irrigation canal.

The second phase of the project, which will improve passage for pallid sturgeon and native fish species at Yellowstone Intake, is currently in the design stages.

“Work continues and has not been halted on the project,” said Robert Matya, Chief of Civil Works Branch at the Omaha District. “The current construction project for the headworks and fish screens at the irrigation canal is progressing and on schedule for completion in March 2012.”

The Corps is currently waiting for the release of the approval of the federal budget before it proceeds with Phase 2 of the project. The 2009 estimate for this phase of work has been updated due to design progression and the planned construction contract award for this second phase of work, which had been planned for September 2011, has been delayed pending completion of design and final federal budget approval.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District
1616 Capitol Ave., Omaha, Neb. 68102
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/>

The Corps, in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Montana, is the lead agency for the project.

An Integrated Science Program and multi-agency Biological Review Team ensure that all strategies related to work at Yellowstone Intake are collaboratively developed to provide the latest and most accurate scientific reviews in multiple areas, including biological criteria and attraction flows related to fish passage. In addition, the collaborative team uses advanced studies and research, as well as a constructed physical model, to better develop hydraulic modeling, optimize performance, and analyze project risks.

“Despite the delay in the design for fish passage, the federal agencies remain committed to finding a solution that meets all federal laws and regulations, and ensures the continued conveyance of water for eastern Montana irrigators,” said Matya.

The multi-agency team will share additional information with the Missouri River Implementation Committee regarding the Lower Yellowstone project at the MRRIC quarterly meeting. The next round of meetings will take place from Feb. 15 through 17 in Denver, Colo.

MRRIC was authorized by Congress in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act and established in 2008 by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). The 70-member committee comprised of stakeholders and representatives of state, Tribal, and federal governments throughout the Missouri River basin and provides recommendations to federal agencies on existing and future federal programs for Missouri River ecosystem recovery. More information about the upcoming MRRIC meeting is available at www.mrric.org. Engineers and representatives from the Corps will also be made available during the meeting to respond to additional queries.

###